

Message Text

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S/S - MR. ORTIZ

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TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

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NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

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TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: ECONOMIC SUMMIT

EYES ONLY FOR AMBASSADOR OR CHARGE FROM SONNENFELDT

1. FYI. CANADIAN AMBASSADOR WARREN CALLED ON ME TO MAKE A STRONG PITCH FOR CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN ANY ECONOMIC SUMMIT. HE PREFACED THIS BY STATING THAT THE GOC WAS SKEPTICAL ABOUT THE ADVANTAGE OF SUCH RESTRICTED GROUPINGS, THAT IT HAD LIVED WITH THE G-5 WITHOUT LIKING IT, AND THAT IT HOPED THAT ECONOMIC SUMMITRY WOULD NOT IN ANY CASE BE INSTITUTIONALIZED. THIS SAID, IF AN ECONOMIC SUMMIT WERE HELD, CANADA SHOULD BE INCLUDED, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES WERE RESTRICTED TO THREE, FOUR, FIVE OR WHATEVER. THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC SITUATION AND
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NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE WOULD BE DISCUSSED WHEN SECRETARY

KISSINGER VISITS OTTAWA THIS MONTH, AND CANADA'S INCLUSION OR EXCLUSION AT A SUMMIT COULD NOT BUT AFFECT THE TENOR OF THESE TALKS. IT WOULD, WARREN SAID, BE A VERY BIG ISSUE'

2. I REPLIED BY NOTING THAT THE SUMMIT WAS NOT ORIGINALLY OUR IDEA. GISCARD'S INITIAL PROPOSAL HAD FIRST BEEN TAKEN UP BY SCHMIDT, AND IT THEN HAD BEEN DISCUSSED IN HELSINKI BY WILSON, FORD, GISCARD AND SCHMIDT. THE ORIGINAL CONCEPT HAD BEEN BROADENED FROM ITS MONETARY FOCUS TO ENCOMPASS A MUCH WIDER AND MORE FUNDAMENTAL RANGE OF POLITICO/ECONOMIC ISSUES, BUT WITH THE EMPHASIS ON INFORMAL AND VERY PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS. US, UK, GERMAN AND FRENCH EXPERTS HAD BEEN APPOINTED TO EXPLORE THE MATTER AND THEY HAD MET DURING A RECENT TRIP BY GEORGE SHULTZ, OUR EXPERT, TO EUROPE. THERE THEY HAD AGREED TO MEET AGAIN IN NEW YORK THIS COMING WEEKEND FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS, AND TO INVITE JAPAN, THE REMAINING MEMBER OF THE G-5, TO SEND AN "EXPERT." SUBSEQUENTLY, IT HAD ALSO BEEN DECIDED TO INVITE ITALY.

3. I SAID I WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO DEBATE THE DESIRABILITY OF SUCH A SUMMIT. THE LEADERS CONCERNED FELT IT USEFUL TO GIVE MORE VISIBLE EVIDENCE THAT THE WEST WAS IN COMMAND OF ITS DESTINY, AND THEY WERE AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO HOLD SUCH A SUMMIT. IN OUR VIEW A SUMMIT SHOULD FOCUS ON THE BROADER POLITICAL AND SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION, RATHER THAN BEING USED TO NEGOTIATE SPECIFIC, ESSENTIALLY TECHNICAL ISSUES. AS TO THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OR REPETITION OF SUCH MEETINGS, NOTHING HAD BEEN DECIDED AND IN MY VIEW MUCH WOULD DEPEND ON HOW THINGS WENT AT THE SUMMIT.

4. WITH RESPECT TO CANADIAN PARTICIPATION, I SAID THAT THE US WAS IN FAVOR, BUT THAT WE WERE NOT IN A POSITION TO MAKE A UNILATERAL DECISION. I SUGGESTED THAT THE CANADIANS GET IN TOUCH WITH THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS, PARTICULARLY THE FRENCH AND GERMANS, WHO HAD ORIGINALLY PROPOSED SUCH A SUMMIT. ONCE THE OTHERS HAD INDICATED AGREEMENT, I WOULD IMMEDIATELY BE IN TOUCH WITH AMBASSADOR WARREN TO GIVE HIM THE DETAILS ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR THIS WEEKEND'S MEETING IN NEW YORK.

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5. WARREN CLOSED BY NOTING THAT THEY WOULD HAVE A MAN AVAILABLE IN NEW YORK, AND THAT THEIR PM WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR THE LATE NOVEMBER DATES THAT THEY HAD HEARD MENTIONED FOR THE SUMMIT. I SAID THAT THE LATE NOVEMBER DATES FOR THE SUMMIT HAD BEEN PROPOSED BY THE JAPANESE, BUT WERE UNACCEPTABLE FOR US, AND THAT THERE WAS NO AGREEMENT AS YET ON DATES FOR THE SUMMIT.

6. FOR BONN, AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND. SCHMIDT SAID TO SHULTZ AND ME IN NEW YORK LAST NIGHT THAT WHILE HE WISHED THE ORIGINAL GROUP HAD NOT BEEN EXPANDED, HE HAD NO OBJECTION TO CANADIAN PARTICIPATION. THE CANADIANS MAY SEEK FORMAL GERMAN APPROVAL BOTH IN BONN AND FROM SCHMIDT'S PARTY IN NEW YORK.

7. FOR PARIS, AMBASSADOR RUSH. I CALLED FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO TELL HIM OF CANADIAN APPROACH AND TO ALERT HIM TO PROBABLE CANADIAN INQUIRY AT ELYSEE. I ALSO MENTIONED TO HIM THAT SCHMIDT HAD LAST NIGHT RECALLED THAT HE, SHULTZ AND GISCARD HAD DISCUSSED THIS MATTER WHEN THEY MET IN PARIS LAST MONTH AND HAD AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO INCLUDE CANADA IF ITALY WERE INCLUDED. END FYI. KISSINGER

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